

Dear Rev. Fathers, and Brothers,

Greetings of the Indian Independence Day and blessing of the feast of the Assumption of our Lady!

We are in the last 100 days of the Year of Mercy. The Year we commenced on 8th December, 2015 will be over on 20th November, 2016. It is the opportune time for an authentic introspection and stock taking regarding our life in this Year of Mercy.

We have been asked to take up the *Spiritual Works of Mercy* and *Corporal Works of Mercy* and to outreach mercy through confession initiatives. It is also a time to promote divine mercy devotion and to be authentic missionaries of mercy. CMI family had decided to make efforts to be known more as compassionate and merciful community within and outside.

I am sure individually and collectively we have done a lot. But we have not been visible as a community that outreaches mercy in comparison with all what we do.

Justice precedes mercy. Hence as a just community, we shall pay the minimum salary prescribed by the State Government. General Auditor has issued guidelines to all the provincials with regard to the same. Hence I request all the provincials to make sure that minimum wages are paid in all our houses and institutions as per the norms. A report shall be submitted on 1st September, 2016.

A house for a house project, Heal a family project and scholarship for the poor students shall be implemented by every house and institution.

Institutions that do not show a merciful face to the poor becomes a counter witness in the society. Though institutions are our strength, they become our major weaknesses due to improper practices and lack of financial sanctity and accountability and auditing. Over the years we have changed a lot; but people have not changed their perspective on CMIs. All our educational institutions shall admit at least 10% poor students with fees scholarships.

If more and more CMIs find much more time and generosity to be at the confessional, CMI face will be much more merciful face of the Lord.

May our blessed mother help us out to be merciful!

Fr. Paul Achandy CMI
Prior General